

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 23-27 February 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Comments by Jane Needham

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

Question reference number: 29

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Question:

Senator LUDWIG: There were also comments made by the president of the New South Wales Bar Association, Jane Needham SC, at the time, who then indicated that she believed that a court could find it would be impossible to have a jury empanelled who was not affected by the Prime Minister's comment. Has that matter been examined by PM&C?

Senator Abetz: And one wonders whether her comment then might also have an impact on the empanelling of a jury. That is an interesting situation that the president of the bar association has got herself into. We will take that question on notice, as well, because we do not have an answer.

Senator LUDWIG: Surrounding that same issue is a question of whether or not PMO then contacted PM&C in relation to those comments by, I presume, Ms Needham and sought to provide a response.

Ms Cross: We will take that on notice.

Answer:

Refer PM27.